

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-9 are pending in the subject application.

Applicant has cancelled claim 2 and amended claim 1 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 2. Claims 3, 5-7, and 9 have been amended to improve the language. Applicant has also amended the specification and Figures 5-7 to correct the informalities. The amendments are self-explanatory and supported by the application as originally filed. No new matter has been introduced.

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration of the subject application in view of the amendments and following remarks.

DRAWINGS

The drawings are objected to because they include reference characters not mentioned in the description and do not include reference signs mentioned in the description.

In response, Applicant submits herewith the amended replacement drawings. Therefore, the objection is overcome.

SPECIFICATION

The disclosure is objected to because of the informalities at page 5, lines 11-12.

In response, Applicant has amended the specification to correct the informalities. Accordingly, the rejection is overcome.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In response, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 3-9 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the present invention. Accordingly, the rejection is overcome.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by

Fujimoto (JP 61049028 A); claims 1 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kondo (JP 60211142 A) (Kondo).

To anticipate a claim, each and every element must be taught in a single prior art reference, either expressly or inherently. Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 2 into claim 1. Thus, none of the cited prior art discloses, either expressly or inherently, each and every element of the amended claim 1. Therefore, claim 1, as well as claims 3 and 9 which depend on claim 1, is not anticipated by the prior art references. Accordingly, the rejection is overcome.

CLAIM REJECTION - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kondo in view of Seshimo et al. (JP 2000-186743 A).

Applicant respectfully submits that the combined Kondao and Seshimo reference do not disclose the invention as set forth in claim 4. Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 2 into claim 1. Claim 4 depends on claim 1 and contains all limitations of claim 1, as amended. There is no *prima facie* case of obviousness, because the combined references still fail to teach a vibration isolation system for building having a vibration isolation layer which includes an upper layer structure consisted of upper beams or slabs and moveable bases, which is coupled to columns of the building, a lower layer structure consisted of lower beams or slabs and fixed bases, and vibration isolation devices and elastic member horizon-resetting devices which are mounted between the upper layer structure and the lower layer structure, in which the vibration isolation devices are mounted between the moveable bases and the fixed bases, respectively; the elastic member horizon-resetting devices are mounted between the beams and/or slabs of the upper layer structure and the lower layer structure, respectively, and each elastic member horizon-resetting device is constructed such that an upper hole is provided in the upper beam or slab of the upper layer structure and a lower hole corresponding to the upper hole is provided in the lower beam or slab of the lower layer structure, in which the corresponding upper and lower holes are filled with filling material, and an elastic member having an upper

coupling plate and a lower coupling plate is mounted between the filling material filled in the upper hole and that filled in the corresponding lower hole, where locking devices are mounted between the upper layer structure and the lower layer structure, as set forth in the amended claim 4. Therefore, the rejection is overcome.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner stated that claims 2 and 5-8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for pointing out the allowability of claims 2 and 5-8. Applicant believes that claims 1 and 3-9 are all allowable, as amended, in view of the Examiner's statement.

In view of the foregoing, claims 1 and 3-9, as amended, are in condition for allowance, early notice of which is requested.

No fee is believed to be due for this response. Should any fee be required, please charge the same to deposit account No. 50-2586.

Respectfully submitted,
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